

PROPOSED REVISION OF THE ENTRY ON THE "OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY" REGARDING THE GENERIC NAME "HOMARUS" WEBER, 1795 (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA) (PROPOSED REVISION OF AN ENTRY MADE BY THE RULING GIVEN IN "OPINION" 104)

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(Commission's reference : Z.N.(S.) 879)

The object of the present application is to ask the approval of the International Commission for a revision of the defective entry relating to the name *Homarus* Weber, 1795 (*Nomencl. ent. Fabr.* : 94) made on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 104 (1928, *Smithson. misc. Coll.* 73 (No. 5) : 25—28).

2. The entry in respect of the foregoing name made on the *Official List* by *Opinion* 104 was as follows :—

Homarus Fabr. in Weber, 1795a, 94, tsd. *gammarus* = *marinus*, s. *vulgaris*. Same as Milne Edw., 1837, *HnC*, 329, 333

3. The first question which calls for consideration is the method by which a type species was fixed for the nominal genus *Homarus* Weber, 1795. As will be seen from the foregoing extract from *Opinion* 104, it was there stated that this was by subsequent selection (t[ype by] s[ubsequent] d[esignation]). Weber's little book, as is well known, was completely overlooked or ignored until Miss Mary Rathbun disinterred it and brought the names in it into use in her paper published in 1904 (*Proc. biol. Soc. Wash.* 17 : 170) when she stated that "*Homarus gammarus* (Linnaeus)", [i.e. *Cancer gammarus* Linnaeus, 1758] was the type species of this genus. The foregoing nominal species was not included by Weber in his genus *Homarus*. The first nominal species cited by him as belonging to *Homarus* was however *Astacus marinus* Fabricius, 1775 (*Syst. Ent.* : 413), which is objectively identical with the nominal species *Cancer gammarus* Linnaeus, 1758, the name published by Fabricius being no more than a substitute name (*nom. nov.*) for the earlier name published by Linnaeus. In 1912, Fowler (*Ann. Rep. New Jersey State Mus.* 1911 : 333) selected the nominal species *Astacus marinus* Fabricius, 1775, one of the original included nominal species, to be the type species of *Homarus* Weber, 1795.

4. In an application numbered Z.N.(S.) 878¹ submitted simultaneously with the present case, I have recommended the International Commission to adopt a *Declaration* under which in a case such as the present where two objectively identical nominal species are involved, the selection of either as the type species of a genus established prior to 1st January 1931 is to be accepted as a valid type selection under Rule (g) in Article 30, it being immaterial whether the

¹ See pages 86—89 of the present volume.

nominal species so selected is that actually cited by the author of the genus or whether it is only the nominal species which is objectively identical with that species. Accordingly, I now ask that consequentially upon the grant, as I hope, of the application referred to above, the Commission should accept as a valid type selection for the genus *Homarus* Weber, 1795, the selection by Miss Rathbun of the nominal species *Cancer gammarus* Linnaeus, 1758, notwithstanding the fact that it was not this species but the objectively identical nominal species *Astacus marinus* Fabricius, 1775, which was cited by Weber as belonging to his genus *Homarus*.

5. At this point it is necessary to refer to the Application Z.N.(S.) 908 (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 11 : 112—113) that the Commission should render a Declaration that, where there are two or more identical nominal species (i.e. nominal species, the names of which are objective synonyms of one another), the designation, indication or selection of any one of these nominal species to be the type species of a genus is to be treated as the designation, indication or selection of whichever of the nominal species concerned has the oldest available name, irrespective of whether or not that nominal species was cited by the author of the name of the genus in question. Further, it was suggested that the decision so recommended should be illustrated as follows by the case of the generic name *Homarus* Weber, 1795 :—"Example : The nominal species *Cancer gammarus* Linnaeus, 1758, and *Astacus marinus* Fabricius, 1775, are objectively identical with one another. The second, but not the first, of these nominal species was placed by Weber in his genus *Homarus* in 1795. *Astacus marinus* Fabricius was the first of the originally included nominal species to be selected to be the type species of *Homarus* Weber. Since the name *Cancer gammarus* Linnaeus is (a) an available name and (b) a senior objective synonym of the name *Astacus marinus* Fabricius, the nominal species *Cancer gammarus* Linnaeus is to be treated as the type species of the genus *Homarus* Weber." If, as I hope, the foregoing proposals are adopted by the Commission, the genus *Homarus* Weber, 1795, will take, as its type species, *Cancer gammarus* Linnaeus, 1758, and not, as otherwise would be the case, *Astacus marinus* Fabricius, 1775 (which, as explained above, is an identical nominal species but one possessing a later and therefore invalid name).

6. The last point to which attention must be drawn is the cryptic reference to Milne Edwards (1837) in the entry regarding the generic name *Homarus* Weber made in *Opinion* 104. In the passage in question Milne Edwards adopted a nominal genus *Homarus* to which he referred a nominal species *Homarus vulgaris* Milne Edwards, 1837 (: 334), which, like *Astacus marinus* Fabricius, 1775, is objectively identical with *Cancer gammarus* Linnaeus, 1758. Milne Edwards made no reference whatever to Weber and clearly regarded himself as the author of the generic name *Homarus* as then used in his book. *Homarus* Milne Edwards (H.), 1837 (*in* Roret's *Suite à Buffon, Hist. nat. Crust.* 2 : 333) must therefore be regarded as an independently established nominal genus. As such, its name (*Homarus* Milne Edwards) is invalid by reason of being a junior homonym of *Homarus* Weber, 1795.

7. In order to bring the entry on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* relating to the generic name *Homarus* Weber, 1795, into a form suitable for inclusion in that *List* when published in book form and in order also to dispose of certain other minor matters outstanding in the present case, I ask the International Commission to take the following action, namely :—

- (1) to substitute the following revised entry for Name No. 494 on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* for the incomplete entry made under the Ruling given in *Opinion* 104 :—

Homarus Weber, 1795, *Nomencl. ent. Fabr.* : 94 (gender : masculine) (type species by selection by Rathbun (1904, *Proc. biol. Soc. Wash.* 17 : 170) of *Cancer gammarus* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 631), a nominal species objectively identical with *Astacus marinus* Fabricius, 1775, one of the nominal species originally included in this genus by Weber : *Cancer gammarus* Linnaeus, 1758 (under the decision taken on Application Z.N.(S.) 908).

Note :—The above proposal has been drafted on the assumption that approval will be given by the Commission to the proposal for the adoption of the *Declarations* recommended in Applications Z.N.(S.) 878 and Z.N.(S.) 908. If the first of these proposals were not to be approved, the reference to the selection of the type species by Rathbun (1904) would need to be replaced by the words "by selection by Fowler, 1912, *Ann. Rep. New Jersey State Mus.* 1911 : 333)". If the second of these proposals were not to be adopted, it would be necessary to cite the type species as *Astacus marinus* Fabricius, 1775, instead of as *Cancer gammarus* Linnaeus, 1758.

- (2) to place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—*gammarus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Cancer gammarus* (the specific name of the type species of *Homarus* Weber, 1795) ;

Note :—See Note to Proposal (1) above. If the Application Numbered Z.N.(S.) 908 were to be rejected by the Commission, the words in brackets at the end of Proposal (2) would cease to be applicable.

- (3) to place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* the under-mentioned generic names, each of which is a junior homonym of *Homarus* Weber, 1795 :—

(a) *Homarus* Milne Edwards (H.), 1837 ;

(b) *Homarus* Broun, 1881, *Manual N. Zealand Coleopt.* (1)(2) : 740.

- (4) to place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* the under-mentioned specific names, each of which is a junior objective synonym of the name *gammarus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Cancer gammarus* :—

(a) *marinus* Fabricius, 1775, as published in the combination *Astacus marinus* ;

(b) *vulgaris* Milne Edwards (H.), 1837, as published in the combination *Homarus vulgaris*.